

CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for managing a business process, comprising the steps of:

executing a business process that comprises an integrated set of applications that enable interactions between a plurality of entities; and

managing the execution of the business process using business commitment specifications that describe one or more business commitments among said entities, wherein the business commitments are defined using KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and wherein KPIs are defined using probe points, the probe points comprising a logical locator inside the business process for reporting process data to a process monitoring/control system for calculating the KPIs.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the business commitment specifications are described using XML (eXtensible Markup Language) syntax.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of managing comprises the steps of:

reporting process data from at least one probe point associated with the business process upon activation of the at least one prove point;

determining a value of a KPI associated with the at least one probe point based on the process data; and

evaluating a business commitment associated with the KPI based on the determined value of the KPI to determine if the business commitment has been violated.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining a value of a KPI comprises determining the value of the KPI based on a value of at least one other KPI.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining a value of a KPI comprises invoking a function to determining the value of the KPI.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining a value of a KPI comprises determining the value of the KPI based on a value reported from a probe point.
7. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of evaluating a business commitment comprises evaluating a condition specified by the business commitment using the determined value of the KPI.
8. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of commencing an action if it is determined that the business commitment has been violated.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of commencing an action comprises providing notification of the violation to an entity associated with the business commitment.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of commencing an action comprises invoking a management directive to alter the execution of the business process.

11. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for managing a business process, the method steps comprising:

executing a business process that comprises an integrated set of applications that enable interactions between a plurality of entities; and

managing the execution of the business process using business commitment specifications that describe one or more business commitments among said entities, wherein the business commitments are defined using KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and wherein KPIs are defined using probe points, the probe points comprising a logical locator inside the business process for reporting process data to a process monitoring/control system for calculating the KPIs.

12. (Original) The program storage device of claim 11, wherein the business commitment specifications are described using XML (eXtensible Markup Language) syntax.

13. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 11, wherein the instructions for managing comprise instructions for performing the steps of:

reporting process data from at least one a probe point associated with the business process upon activation of the at least one prove point;

determining a value of a KPI associated with the at least one probe poine based on the process data; and

evaluating a business commitment associated with the KPI based on the determined value of the KPI to determine if the business commitment has been violated.

14. (Original) The program storage device of claim 13, wherein the instructions for determining a value of a KPI comprise instructions for determining the value of the KPI based on a value of at least one other KPI.

15. (Original) The program storage device of claim 13, wherein the instructions for determining a value of a KPI comprise instructions for invoking a function to determine the value of the KPI.

16. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 13, wherein the instructions for determining a value of a KPI comprise instructions for determining the value of the KPI based on a value reported from a probe point.

17. (Original) The program storage device of claim 13, wherein the instructions for evaluating a business commitment comprise instructions for evaluating a condition specified by the business commitment using the determined value of the KPI.

18. (Original) The program storage device of claim 13, further comprising instructions for commencing an action if it is determined that the business commitment has been violated.

19. (Original) The program storage device of claim 18, wherein the instructions for commencing an action comprise instructions for providing notification of the violation to an entity associated with the business commitment.

20. (Original) The program storage device of claim 18, wherein the instructions for commencing an action comprise instructions for invoking a management directive to alter the execution of the business process.

21-38. (Cancelled)